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EDITORIAL OMINIONS OF THE LEADING JOURNALS UPON CURRENT TOPICS COMPILED EVERY DAY FOR THE EVENING TELEGRAPH.

TERMINATING REBEL DISFRANCHISE-MENT.

From the N. Y. Times. The question of putting an end to the present suffrage disabilities of those connected with the Rebellion is engaging attention more and more throughout the country. In some of the leading Southern States, like Virginia and Tennessee, it has become one of the principal political issues. Influential Southerners of the most diverse party connections and personal antecedents, from General Robert Lee to Parson Brownlow, are taking the ground that the time has come when there should no longer be a proscribed class before the ballot-box. The growing prevalence of the same spirit in the Northern political coungels is manifest to every observer.

The fact is that the first intense, impulsive, indiscriminating heat against the rebellion and all concerned in it has given place, with the lapse of time, to cooler, calmer thinking. The treatment of the conquered Rebels is now weighed with more regard to the true interests of the whole country, Opinions upon it are shaped less by private feeling and more by considerations of sound public policy. Among the Union men of the South-even the radical portion of them—there is a per-ception of a bad anomaly in a state of things

under which the highest prerogative of citizenship is denied to thousands of the most wealthy, intelligent, and virtuous; while it is freely exercised by tens of thousands who have lived all their lives until very lately in the most debasing slavery and benighted

The radicals of the North, too, are growing more sensible of this incongruity. It is hard for them to keep up their old cry of "manhood suffrage," and make the application stop short of the white race. If their principle is worth anything at all, its validity is absolute, and its application must be universal. It has come to this -as every thinking man foreknew from the outset-that the radicals cannot nourish their resentments against the Southern white man, except at the expense of the "impartial, equal right platform, the abstract ustice of which was all that ever gave them any standing-place in the politics of the country. Thus it is that the very class of Northern politicians who have been most implacable toward the South are preparing to yield something, from the sheer necessity of keeping a Bouare and clear position before the people.

Withal, there is something in this permanent proscription that is calculated to make it unpopular, without any reference to party divisions. It is essentially un-American opposed to the whole spirit of our institutions, and to the fundamental principles of our Government. There is not a monarchical rule in Europe which has not its long list of proscrits-men who have been outlawed all their lives for some kind of insubordination. This persecution is in perfect harmony with a system which lives and has its being only in brute force, and knows no such thing as an inherent personal right. But we live in a republic which professes to be sustained purely by the "consent of the governed," and which declares certain natural rights "inalienable." That cannot be called a government of the people from the privileges of which a considerable fraction of the people, for any cause, are excluded. To impose taxation and all the other burdens of Government upon any person, while depriving him of representation and all the benefits of Government, has been to the American mind, from the beginning, the very essence of tyranny. The very love for constitutional law which impelled the great majority to fight the Rebellion with such good heart, makes it all the harder to follow up the conquered Rebellion with pains and penalties so alien to the

Constitution. It may be allowed that disfranchisement, with its attendant "iron-clad oath," for a time served some good purpose. But that is really no argument for their continuance. There is no reason in persistently keeping up an extreme medicine in advanced convalescence, simply because it did some good at a more dangerous stage of the disease. Everybody knows that the time must come when the extreme resort must be discontinued, or the patient be the worse for it. For a while, after the overthrow of the Rebellion, the Southern temper was so hot and vindictive with disappointment that it was easily moved to evil by its old leaders, and reconstruction was thereby greatly hindered, until it became palpable that these leaders must somehow be hampered and disabled, or disorder rage indefinitely. Therefore these temporary disabilities were

temporarily imposed, and with good effect. The irritation of the masses, left without this "stimulus, presently gave way to sober thought and it gradually became clear to the whole Southern mind that it was best to forget the past, and be on good terms once more with the old Government. This feeling grew until the Rebellion was no longer spoken of or thought of by any class, except as "the lost " And to-day scarcely a trace of the old rebellious spirit ventures to show itself anywhere. Practically, the South is now just as clear as the North of any purpose to organize resistance against Federal authority. suspension of habeas corpus, which the Northern people were made to feel during the war, would be scarcely more out of time, if revived now, than are these civil disabilities, still visited upon the South. The Rebellion has forever passed, and with it should pass forever away from both parts of the country the last glimmering of its cruel necessities.

Presidential election, it was just this which the people of both sections pronounced for, in uniting as they so generally did upon General Grant, with his watchword, 'Let us have Peace." The peace that was then voted was no hollow pretext or sham affair. It was honest, heartfelt peace, springing from a sense of common brotherhood and common interest-a peace sought and found in its natural course, laid in liberal forgiving sentiments, and in principles purely pacific, as far removed as the poles from all intolerance and proscription. Despite of the opposition of the few malignants on either side, it will yet be the glory of this administration to fulfil its assigned work, by making this peace a genuine and grand reality.

If there was any significance in the last

THE OPPORTUNITY AND THE FAILURE OF THE GOVERNMENT.

From the N. Y. Herald.

In view of the events which are passing around us and in the immediate neighborhood of our southern shore, it becomes an important question to the country and to the nations with whom we hold intercourse to know what position the Government will take in the Cuban question and the developments which are following it. The fullness of time has come to the colonial government of that saland and its people are assuming by force Fornes Winslow and others have shown to

is based upon a belief in the sacred right of so, arousing the imitative faculty, may lead revolution, and wherever we behold a people directly to the perpetration of a similar act. revolution, and wherever we behold a people treading the path which our fathers trod before, our sympathies go out to them, and no small number of our people are willing to follow the example of Lafayette, who came to the assistance of our fatherland in its dark

It cannot, then, be otherwise that in the struggle for liberty in Cuba some, perhaps many, of our own citizens will be found treading the wine-press of freedom side by side with the impulsive sons of Cuba. If this were not so we should belie our own teachings; and, admitting this fact, the question comes up, what position will the Government hold towards them? The war in which they embark is a fierce and sanguinary one. The foe claims to rule "by the grace of God," and proclaims that all who oppose him are robbers, pirates, and enemies of the human race. Prisoners are slaughtered in cold blood; homes are given everywhere to the devouring flames, and extermination is the policy adopted and acted upon. Further than this, the stipulations of treaties of amity, commerce, and navigation with neighboring powers, and their local laws, are appealed to to justify this course and deprive those who aspire to exercise the right of self-government of the aid which private sympathy may extend to them.

Will the Government admit the claim of the Spanish rulers in Cuba, and deny the right of a whole people to throw off the yoke of despotism, and of our own citizens to take part in the struggle without running other and greater risks of the chance of battle? That the entire people of Cuba reject the rale of Spain has been over and over again proclaimed by the Spanish press, the Spanish authorities, and the Spanish volunteers who now rule Havana. It is testified by the fact that not a Cuban is trusted with arms in behalf of Spain; that Spain rules only where her troops stand; that where her troops are, an exodus of the Cuban population is witnessed. If the Government at Washington takes no step to control the sanguinary practices of this war for a falling rule, as it should do in justice to our own citizens and in consonance with our history and the position we hold as the leading power of America, then by its silence it justifies the outrage against humanity, and is false in its duty to ourselves.

No treaty of amity, no laws of neutrality can sanctify before the people of the United States, or of the world, the claim of any power to the right to govern a mation when the nation rejects such a claim. If this were not so, Mr. Fish would be involved in an endless perplexity as to who should be recognized by him as the reigning sovereign in any country in Europe or America. But we may go even further. No treaty of amity can be appealed to by any power as conferring upon it the right to use practices beyond the pale of humanity in its efforts to preserve itself. and all such claims will be rejected by every right-minded statesman. In truth, the very fact of an appeal to such practices should lead at once to a condemnation of the government using them. It is argued that the Government is a friendly power, with whom we have say that we have a hundred Smiths treaties by which we are bound. But by appealing to practices beyond the recognized laws of war the power so doing becomes itself, in a certain sense, hostis humanis, and thereby releases the binding effect of all treaties

We have brought forward these views because of the great events now before us. Cuba is in process of successful revolution. American citizens have taken and will take but not unsatisfactory way of throwing light part therein, animated by the holiest feelings of human nature and justified by their natural | veniently could, how large a proportion of the rights. The Government which is struggling to perpetuate its despotism proclaims its foes to be pirates and robbers, and not entitled to the usages of war. Our own Government has failed in its duty to place itself on record in such a way as shall lend its moral influence to the cause of humanity and human progress. It has gone even further than this, and has recently displayed a secret partisanship for the power which has been rejected, and the members of the Cabinet exhibit a self-accusing spirit by laying the onus of the act upon nferior member of the Council. Every thinking person in the country rejects with a laugh of scorn the statement that Mr. Hoar alone is responsible for the acts which have committed the Government to an obnoxious policy, and none, however poor in intellect, will believe that the Attorney-General took the liberty of committing the Government in these great questions without advice and

without direction from the whole body. The whole Government, from President the acts which mark its policy and prove its partisanship. If Mr. Fish has consented to tenure of prejudice and oppression was less of sympathy with American feeling and with the march of American ideas which disqualifies him for the high place he holds. If he entertains sympathies for the Cubans in their efforts to establish their own freedom, to sweep slavery from their land, and to participate in the political happiness which we enjoy, he should show it in some other way than by whisperings through the pen of a newspaper correspondent. Such breathings are not sufficient to counteract acts in which the hand of the Government is plainly visible. It will not be an act of war to perform our duty to human nature by recognizing the belligerent rights of the Republicans of Cuba, and to intimate to our fond ally Spain that we expect her to carry on war as a civilized government, and not as an enemy to the human race, especially as we are supplying her with guns, powder, and ships wherewith to make the war. As for a national policy, it is plain, that the weak and cold administration of Grant and Fish is not equal to the task of devising one. We look to the American people to take care of that, intimating to the administration that they will do well not to place themselves, in their timorous appreciation of European complications, in an attitude of hostility to the national policy the people shall lay down.

CRIME BY INFECTION.

From the N. Y. World. That crime is contagious is a belief so ancient and approved that it has been embalmed in our copy-books. How many an urchin has twisted his tongue into chirographic contortions over the maxim that "evil communications corrupt good manners!" Though a heathen, Menander said the thing; the great Apostle Paul cited and endorsed it; and, as it is both appointed to be read in churches and to be written in schools, it may be taken and held, we presume, to be a settled truth. But is crime also infectious?

This question is raised for us by a clever writer in the Medical Gazette of this city, who seems to be more than half disposed to charge upon the most enterprising and successfu journals of the day a certain measure of definable and culpable responsibility for the multiplication of monstrous offenses against humanity. The writer's theory is that the sort of latent or half latent moral insanity which

of their own arms new relations to the powers | exist in most men may be stimulated and of the world. No American can or does doubt | developed by familiarity with the exciting detheir right to do this. Our political education tails of any particularly striking crime, and

The proposition is obviously plausible, and if it could be established to demonstration, it might warrant, perhaps, the interference of grand juries and district attorneys to suppress the strictly "sensational" journalism of human wickedness. But it strikes us that this is eminently one of the many cases in which "a great deal to be said on both

If we assume, in the first place, the truth of Quetelet's doctrine, extended and formulated by Buckle, concerning the averages of human feeling and action, we must be prepared to believe that the impulses which propagate a special form of malefaction at any given time are much more subtle and lie deeper down in human nature than our prophet of infection would have us to suppose. As a certain and an ascertainable number of persons in a given region of country will every year at a given time provide themselves with white hats or order cucumbers with their salmon, and this without consulting the daily journals or the menus of Baron de Brisse, precisely so will a certain and ascertainable number of persons in like manner coincidently clope with the redhaired governesses of their children or put their grandmothers to death with "extenuating circumstances," which in legal French means a blue cotton umbrella or a trombone. These people obey a mysterious and irresistible proclivity, conditioned, doubt-

ess, upon atmospheric, social, and political influences, of which we have a very inadequate notion as yet, or, one may more truly say, no notion at all. It is quite as pro-bable, to say the least of it, that a person laboring under these influences, uncon-sciously to himself, may be suddenly braced up into a state of moral horror which will enable him to resist them, as that a person not laboring under these influences should be seduced into crime by the perusal of the full. true, and necessarily shocking story of an exceptionally brutal offense. Of course, no account is to be taken, in considering this question, of crimes committed for a specific and easily intelligible reason-crimes of self interest deliberately weighed or of passion specifically inflamed. We are examining now the genesis of strange and irrational crimes: of the morbid offenses against property or numan life which make juries hesitate so often so clumsily decide between the gallows or the penitentiary and the asylum.

Our own belieff is that upon a vast majority of people elaborate and harrowing narratives of crime act rather as safety-valves for prooding and inchoate fancies of evil within them than as provocations to sin. The imagination in many people serves a purpose of what we may call moral perspiration. It carries off, through sympathy and terror and the delight of a conscious emotion, pent-up forces which might else accumulate and turn to humors in the soul, if we may so speak, and at last explode in crime. For one Courvoisier moved to cut his master's throat by reading the wondrons tale of the deviltry and the daring of Jack Sheppard, we venture to or Browns who live out in fancy over Ainsworth's pages many dire suggestions of wrong, and faint hints of the ferocious creature within them pent, which had festered else into horrible fact. Besides which, it re-mains to be shown that Courvoisier told the truth when he foisted upon his imagination the responsibility of a deed which more probably originated in his pocket. An empirical on the point would be to ascertain, if we conmost startling crimes annually committed among men take place within the subscription lists of a daily newspaper, and how large proportion in lonely hamlets and isolated neighborhoods, divided not, like Sydney Smith's Norfolk residence, "by twelve from a lemon," but by hundreds and thousands of miles from a reporter and a printing-

THE CHURCH BILL. From the N. Y. Tribune.

Few words will suffice to define the triumph which the English Commons have obtained over their Lords, by the vote in the latter house on the bill for disestablishing the Irish Church. By a vote of 179 to 146, and in pleasant disappointment of the apprehensions felt a week ago, the Lords have abandoned their retrogressive and crab-like hold of the Establishment, but yet, we fear, have not abandoned it altogether. Carnarvon, Salisbury, Stanhope, and the Archbishop of Can-Grant down to Mr. Hoar, is responsible for terbury have proved safer counsellors than tenure of prejudice and oppression was less this course willingly, he has exhibited a want | tractable or yielding. Mr. Disraeli, the leader of the Tories, has not continued to manifest the affected desperation of his late speech before the Commons. As a consequence so much defection in their ranks, the Tories have been compelled to bend a proud knee to the volume and multitude of British opinion. Still, we believe they will contend with energy for some recompense of their concession, with a chance of being successful in embarrassing for a time, however inconside rable, the administration Gladstone and Bright, and of offending the popular good sense and feeling of which these men are perhaps the truest representatives which England has ever produced. It was for the Lords to decide whether they

the owners of a great part of Ireland, were willing to place themselves in direct hostility to the people from whose wrongs they derived their titles and property. "Are not the Irish peasantry very likely to agree with their Houses?" asks one of the heads of British opinion-"to believe the House of Common when it says that the Church has no title to its endowments, and the House of Lordwhen it says that Lord Derby has no better title to his lands?" There has been reason, then, for urging, as most vigorously have done the most sensible of the English press, that the hostile action of the Lords shall not too far succeed in opening up questions so radical that they will be laid bare to the vulgarest intellect of the realm.

Mr. Disraeli has been wise in not persuading his party to ffic precipice which Lord Derby would have had them leap blindfolded. We expect that the lords will insist upon some form of disendowment, which the Commons may or may not be disposed to grant at once. Lords have ever been the worst brakesmen to the car of British progress, but they are pru dent enough not to attempt to withstand the flood which any rashness of theirs might provoke. More than this, the best of them are aware that they effect the greatest economy of their position and means as a party by sur rendering at once to the inevitable and incon

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The steamship PROMETHEUS will sail on
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Through bills of listing given in connection with S.
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Sailing Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays. REDUCTION OF RATES. Spring rates, commencing March 15.
Sailing Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays. On and after 15th of March freight by this line will be taken at 12 cents per 100 pounds, 4 cents per foot, or 1 cent per gallon, ship's option. Advance charges cashed at office on Pier. Freight received at all times on covered wharf. cashed at omce on the times on covered wharf.

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City of Procklyn. Saturday, June 28, at IP. M.
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Psyable in Gold.

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The business of trices lines will be resumed on and after the 5th of March. For Froights, which will be taken on NOTICE.-FOR NEW YORK

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